Certain portions of the *puduval* lands assigned to Pulayas on concessional terms were quite unproductive and unsuitable for habitation. Orders should be issued for better lands being granted to them in place of such unproductive tracts. Further, lands disafforested from the Reserves should be registered in the names of Pulayas, the *thara-vila* and *thadivila* on such lands being made payable within a prescribed period.

Representatives of the community should be deputed, on payment of a small remuneration, for the purpose of registering lands in the names of the Pulayas of Central Travancore.

Lastly, the member represented the need for nominating a member of the Pulaya community to the Legislative Council. In reply to a similar representation at the 26th Session, the Dewan had promised to consider the question at the time of the next nomination. The Pulayas stood in the forefront among the depressed classes, in their numerical strength. Usually a member was nominated to the Legislative Council from among the Sambavars of South Travancore. At least in the next Council, a Pulaya member should be nominated to represent the depressed classes.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതായ സംഗതികളിൽ പലതും നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട മറ്റു മെമ്പറന്മാർ പ്രതിപാദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറകയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ക്ലൃപ്തമായിട്ടു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതു് നിയമസഭയിൽ പുലയരിൽനിന്നും ഒരു മെമ്പരെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണു്. അതിനു ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെതന്നെ, നാമിനേഷൻ (nomination) സമയം വരുമ്പോൾ, പ്രാതിനിധ്യമില്ലാത്ത മറ്റു സമുദായക്കാരുടെ കാര്യംകൂടി ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാം.

[Most of the points dealt with in your representation have been raised before and replied to. When nominations are next made to the Legislative Council, the question of nominating a member belonging to your community will be considered, along with the claims of other unrepresented communities.]

152. Needs of the Fisher-folk.

MR. L. A. NETTO (*Nominated*) said that the fishing community of the State, who numbered two lakhs, deserved better consideration at the hands of the Government, especially in view of the fact that they were responsible for the production of food, for home consumption, of about 95 per cent. of the population of the State. The geographical and social isolation of the fisherfolk made them scarcely known to outsiders. The community was quite backward in civilization. As there was general ignorance concerning the real condition of the fisherfolk, the first step towards bettering them should be to discover what actually was ailing them. A committee should be appointed to study the causes of the gradual deterioration of the fisherfolk, their chronic poverty and

other disadvantages and to suggest proper remedies. The economic survey of the State, now being conducted by the Census Commissioner would bring out only the economic condition of the fisherfolk and nothing else.

The fishing community should be given adequate representation in the popular institutions of the State. Apart from their numerical strength, they represented a distinct and exclusive industry with interests and needs different from those of other communities. In each of the first two of the reformed Legislative Councils, there was a nominated member from among the fisherfolk, but there were no members from the community in the third and in the present Council. In the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, there was always a member and in 1101 there were two members. But in the 26th session of the Assembly, the community was unrepresented. Similarly there was no representative of the community on the Economic Development Board. The Government should in future make it a rule to nominate at least one member to the Legislative Council, two to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and one to the Development Board, from among the fisherfolk.

Another crying need of the fisherfolk was proper sanitation and free medical aid. The more serious epidemics which had proved a menace to the State had their origin among the coast people. The question of adequate sanitation of the populated coastal areas affected the welfare of the whole State. A reliable supply of good drinking water was also an essential requisite. Most of the coastal villages were without even private medical practitioners. Free dispensaries should be established by the Government within accessible distances along the coast. Muttom, Pulluvilai and Puthenthope deserved immediate attention in that direction.

The question of providing easy communication both between the coastal villages themselves and with the interior was an equally important one. A cart-road should be opened along the coast to link up the coastal villages and it should be connected with the roads of the interior. In this connection, the member made the following suggestions :—

(*a*) Enayam should be linked up with the new coastal road running a short distance eastward.

(*b*) The newly opened road between Shankhumukham and Veli should be extended to Kadinamkulam.

(*c*) The Government should pay some compensation to the people who own lands along the sanctioned road from Kaniyapuram to the beach, in case the road cannot be taken to the beach through the lands, the owners of which were willing to surrender them free of compensation or on nominal compensation.

(*d*) Adequate representation should be accorded to the fishing community on the Road Boards for taluks which include portions of the sea coast.

The Arayans, Arasars and other fishing sections of the community were very backward in point of education. To encourage education among

them, the few educated people of the community should be appointed to such posts as they were qualified for. There were some graduates of both sexes and a few, with English or Vernacular School Leaving Certificates, in the community, who had been trying in vain for the past few years, to enter the public service. Those people should be provided with suitable posts. The appointment of two or three Co-operative Inspectors from the fishing community would help the spread of the movement among the coastal people. Without better representation in the public service, the political and general status of the community would always be very low.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Netto. The main point in your representation is about the provision of a net work of communications along the coast where live the fisher folk. That, I may tell you, is a matter which has already attracted the attention of the Government. Proposals have been called for from the Public Works Department in connection with the question of opening a road along the coast and the scheme will be taken up for being worked out as financial conditions permit.

Nomination of members of the several communities to public bodies cannot be guided by the same considerations always. You mentioned the Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council and the Economic Development Board. Each of these stands on a different footing. The Economic Development Board, for instance, is to be treated mainly as an assembly of experts who would be able to give useful and helpful advice to Government in matters relating to the economic development of the country. I do not think that it will be proper to treat that as a body where every community should have representation. The angle from which that institution has to be looked at seems to me to be quite different. If Government find that there are persons of your community or any other community who are likely to be able to give helpful advice in matters of economic development to the State, Government will certainly consider the question of their appointment also on the Board.

The question of the supply of good drinking water to people in the coastal villages where water is scarce has also been taken up by the Government and they have chalked out a line of action which they are trying to follow year after year. It is not possible to supply all these villages with good drinking water and proper sources of drinking water in one year. Government are therefore setting apart an amount every year for sinking a prescribed number of wells in these areas. They are being taken up in the order of urgency and the need for these wells.

There are a number of other useful suggestions also which you have made and they will all receive the consideration of Government.

153. Arayas and their disabilities.

SREEMATHI CODIVEETIL C. RUDRANI (*Nominated*): speaking in Malayalam, first gave expression to the feelings of loyalty and devotion to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent for removing